

[7th March,200!]

RAJYASABHA

Load shedding in the Northern Grid

* 179. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that there have been massive load shedding in the Northern Grid;

(b) whether power breakdown is frequently taking place in the Northern States;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to improve the power situation in Delhi and also in other Northern States?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) Northern Region suffers from power shortage both in terms of peak demand (MW) and energy (MU). During the period April, 2000-January, 2001, Northern Region as a whole experienced energy and peak shortages of 6.7% and 8.6%, respectively. During the same period, the different States of Northern Region experienced energy and peak shortages varying from 1.8% to 14% and 0% to 16.8%, respectively. In order to maintain the grid frequency within safe limits, power cuts/load shedding are resorted to in different States depending upon the mismatch between demand and availability on day to day basis.

(b) during last six years, there were two major grid disturbances in the Northern Region on 20.12.1996 and 2.1.2001 leading to the total collapse of the Northern Grid covering all States and nine partial grid disturbances affecting more than one State.

(c) According to the Central Electricity Authority, low frequency operation of the regional grid due to mismatch in power availability and demand, lack of spinning reserve in the system, lack of adequate redundancy in the transmission system, low voltage at nodal grid points due to inadequate capacitor installation, inadequate relief from the under frequency relays at the pre-set frequency levels etc. are the primary reasons for grid disturbances leading to power breakdowns.

(d) In order to mitigate the power shortage in Northern Region States including Delhi, besides firm shares, allocation is made from the unallocated quota of the Central Sector Power Stations in the Northern Region keeping in view the relative shortages and emergent/seasonal requirements. In addition, special allocations have also been made to Delhi, J&K, Haryana and Rajasthan from unallocated quota of Western Region on temporary basis to take care of

increased irrigation and seasonal requirements of these States. UP is also being provided assistance of about 60 MW from the surplus power of Eastern Region. Further, action is being taken pending completion of the line for terminating 400 KV Biharsharif-Allahabad D/C line at Sarnath sub-station of UPPCL by April, 2001 which will enhance the export of surplus power from Eastern Region to Northern Region from existing 60 MW to 350-500 MW. Other measures such as Renovation, Modernisation and Upgrading of old and inefficient generating units, reduction of T&D losses, installation of shunt capacitors etc. have also been taken to improve the power situation in the Northern Region. Capacity addition of 11736 MW and 10573 MW has also been programmed in Northern Region in Xth and XIth Plan periods, respectively. In the NCT of Delhi, DVB is executing Pragati CCGT (330 MW) project. The expected date of commissioning of 1st Unit of this plant in January, 2002, 2nd Unit in March, 2002 and complete plant by November, 2002. In addition, Delhi will also be entitled for a share of power from the new Central Sector Power Stations envisaged during Xth and XIth Plans in the Northern Region.

Seizure of sophisticated communicating gadgets from prisoners in Tihar Jail

* 180. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that four SIM cards, a sophisticated communicating gadget, were seized from prisoners cell in the high security Tihar Jail in violation of all security rules of this jail;

(b) if so, the details of officials involved and the action to be taken against them; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken to strengthen the security arrangement to avoid such lapses in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENIVIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) In the course of a surprise search conducted by the Prison Authorities on 7th November, 2000 in Jail No. 4 of the Central Jail, Tihar, some prohibited articles including two sockets and a SIM Card were recovered from the Cell of a prisoner. The SIM Card was found to be concealed in a transistor kept in the Cell. Though the efforts were made to trace the Cell Phone, it could not be located. However, the